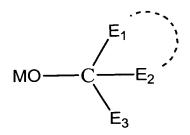
Claims:

1. An ammonium alkoxide having the formula



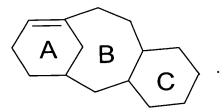
wherein

M is tetraalkylammonium;

 E_1 and E_2 and the carbon to which they are attached comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic skeleton containing about 6 to 20 ring atoms, the hetero atoms being oxygen; and E_3 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbon.

- 2. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein ${\tt E_3}$ is hydrogen.
- 3. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is tetramethylammonium.
- 4. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is tetrabutylammonium.
- 5. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein \boldsymbol{E}_3 is hydrogen and M is tetramethylammonium.
- 6. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein \boldsymbol{E}_3 is hydrogen and M is tetrabutylammonium.
- 7. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_1 and E_2 and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B and C of

structure



8. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_1 and E_2 and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B, C and the oxetane ring of structure

